

352 The furniture¹ is of the simplest, but much ingenuity is displayed in contriving hinges, benches, and so on, the devices used having an air of ancient custom about them. Nearly all the woodwork could be done with the axe (see p. 47). A simple crane, the probable prototype of the iron hearth-crane as we know it in Britain, allows the pot to be suspended at the desired distance from the open wood fire, which burns on a rough hearth towards the centre of the stamped earth floor. A certain sanctity attaches to the fire: it is not allowed to go out, and much ceremony accompanies its lighting. The "living fire" (*focul viu*) should be prepared on arrival at the head stână of the commune's pasturage, by means of two sticks rubbed together, and the operation should be performed by a pure youth, otherwise the flocks will fare badly. The fire must then be carried to the other huts. We were not able to observe this custom, but the shepherd-boy at the Stână Găujoara, situated to the north of the watershed some fifteen miles south-west of Sibiu, was persuaded to show us how the fire was lit. Here the more familiar "flint-and-steel" method was used, but in place of flint the sparks were obtained from a piece of quartz, a substitution which suggests one reason for the common ceremonial use of quartz by ancient man in Europe.

233 IN THE Carpathians, as in Europe generally, there is much
462 variation in the personnel of the transhumant shepherds, but
000 the exclusion of women in some areas is a feature for which
parallels cannot readily be adduced. In Norway it is the women who take the flocks to the summer pastures, an arrangement which is natural where the men are fishers. The same scheme is found in parts of the Central Plateau of France, where the men cannot be spared from their work in the fields, and the same appears to have held for the Scottish Highlands. Switzerland offers the best example of mass transhumance, and the movements formerly practised in Wales and in Ireland, though simpler and less regular, seem to have involved men, women and children. The *hafody*, described by Welsh writers early last century, was a cowhouse with a fire at one end, but no chimney, and, except that the whole was stone-built, the assemblage of pens and shelters must have closely resembled the Roumanian. In Wales, too, ewes were milked and sheep's cheese made into the nineteenth century.

IN THE Carpathians, while some stâne are inhabited by

¹ [In the shepherd's hut -- Analyst]

² [for explanatory footnote see pp. 49, Cat. 116 -- Analyst]

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The hipped roof is rather flat and made of corn straw or reed, about 40 centimeters thick. The frame is often of the collar type, horizontal beams supporting opposing rafters (figs. 60a, 64). Pan tiles appear only in isolated instances. In 1918 sheet iron was becoming popular because it was economical and saved time and effort. It was generally painted red-brown. Chimneys are usually inadequate or lacking (Jänecke, 1918: 11).

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Every house has an open veranda (prisa) on at least one side which may or may not have a low banister. It is slightly elevated from the ground and is protected by an extension of the eaves. While many Moldavian houses consist of only one room, even the smallest house in Wallachia has an anteroom (tinda). Here the main room is called odais and has a special stove that is heated by a flue from the hearth in the anteroom. Often an additional odais is added on the other side of the anteroom forming a symmetrical three-room house. Sometimes additional units are built onto the house on one or both of the narrow sides (figs. 57c, 58). The roof is extended over them in the form of a catalide (fig. 57a). These units are used for storage of agricultural tools, stables, summer kitchens, etc. If two are not sufficient, three or more units may be added. The prisa may be extended alongside the annex; or, when the annex protrudes in front of the house, the prisa may stop at the annex wall (fig. 57c). Occasionally a large house may have two parallel rows of rooms. However, this arrangement complicates the roof construction, which in this case is generally unsuccessful (Jänecke, 1918: 11-16).

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The interior is very simple. The anteroom serves for the storage of house implements; maize is kept in wooden boxes and placed along the wall, and there is also a small handmill for grinding maize. A large oven with a hearth in front of it is located at the wall opposite the door (figs. 57c, 58). The anteroom has no ceiling. When two odais are present one is used for both living and sleeping quarters, while the other is used for the storage of blankets, carpets etc. It is somewhat of a guest-room.

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In the Rumanian house special attention has been given to the hearth and stove, and the whole house can be said to have been built around the hearth. The hearth is the showpiece of the room. Arched over the hearth is a decorated mantel on which cooking utensils are placed. Niches on either side of the hearth are provided for the same purpose. Because of the inflammability of the straw roof, the chimney is of brick (these are the only bricks in the house and are made by the peasants themselves). The stoves in the living room are of unusual construction. The most spectacular of these are the columnar stoves which are not only beautiful but also effective. To the main part of the stove have been added graceful clay pipes which are either arranged symmetrically or placed on one side. The better ones resemble organs. The rest of the stove is also made of clay bricks set in mud mortar and covered with a layer of plaster of a lime and sand mixture. Decoration of clay or plaster may be added. These stoves are generally built by Gypsies.

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Windows are generally double even in the simpler houses, one opening to the inside, the other to the outside. They are always barred and set in a wooden frame (Jknecke, 1918: 27-28).

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The Rumanian house is noteworthy for its exterior decorations. Special attention and much imagination is given to the woodwork. Much art is evident in the pillars supporting the roof over the veranda (fig. 57d), lintels supporting the eaves, the railings of the veranda and the window and door frames. The corners of houses may have designs in low relief. Painted designs may be placed on the wall in great abundance (figs. 57a, 57b). Because of the lesser opportunity of embellishment through woodwork and because whitewashed walls lend themselves well to painting, painting of the exterior is characteristic of the plains. The Rumanian does not shy away from bright colors. Ultramarine is most popular, for it is said to scare away evil spirits. Combinations of red, blue and yellow are common, and dark green shades are also favored (Jknecke, 1918: 23).

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The basic difference between the house of the lowlands and those of the mountain region is that the latter are of two-story construction (fig. 64a). Building materials in the mountains are stone and wood rather than wicker and mud. When houses are built on an incline a high stone foundation forms the ground floor (pivnita). This can be used for stables, storage rooms and also as a wine cellar. This form persists even when the terrain is flat. The higher house is appreciated for its better view, greater security and suitability for defense.

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While the floor plan often consists of a row of rooms similar to that of the lowlands, a number of changes have taken place. The anteroom with its large hearth is generally left out (fig. 64b). This is due to the fact that the bricks that line the hearth are not available, and the wooden walls are more inflammable than the predominantly mud ones of the plains. Where the hearth is present it is put into a special annex. Instead of the hearth an even-stove (a combination stove and oven) is used, which permits the main room to be used as living room and sleeping room as well as a kitchen.

The two-room house predominates; due to the absence of the connecting anteroom, each room has a door to the veranda (berdak) (fig. 66). Sometimes the veranda at the top of the stairway is expanded into a hall-like structure (foiger) (fig. 64a) covered by a hipped roof at right angles to the main roof. In summer most activities take place there.

The foundation is made of rocks or of large pebbles from the river. Walls are made of horizontal logs or boards which cross at the corners, each fitting into a notch in the other. A mud or lime plaster is never omitted, and to facilitate this plastering thin laths are nailed diagonally across the beams.

The roof is steeper than in the plains and protrudes further over the house. The support is in the form of a collar. The rafters tend to be too widely spaced, which results in slight bending of the battens; but, while it makes for a weaker roof, this results in softer and more pleasing lines. The four corners are not sharp but tend to be rounded (fig. 62). Wooden shingles are almost exclusively used for roof covering. They are about 15 centimeters wide and may be as long as 3 meters. They overlap two to four times. Shorter shingles form 6-10 rows. The smaller shingles may have their ends in the form of swallow tails or other decorative shapes. The ridge shows a special development. On the windward side the first layer of shingles is made to protrude over the ridgepole (fig. 62). These shingles also have excised patterns and are very ornamental. The ridgepoles may extend slightly over the hip and have a small gabled roof, one shingle in height (fig. 62). This provides an opening for the smoke to escape through. Ornamental poles rise at either end of the ridgepole (fig. 61).

Chimneys are lacking and the smoke may escape through openings at the ridge or otherwise through the roof, which then shows all shades of gray to black. In some areas of Oltenia in southwestern Rumania one finds wooden chimneys (fig. 65). These are made of wicker and daub and are covered with shingles.

A special development in the foothills of the Southern Carpathian Mountains is the privy, which is in the form of an annex located at the end of the veranda (fig. 64b).

In general the buildings in the mountain districts show a greater variation than those of the plains. The woodwork is superior, and shows a great deal of inventiveness. The construction, however, is irregular, sloppy and often not functional. Pillars that carry no weight may be very thick, while those that must support much weight may be much too slender (Jänecke, 1918: 33-43).

Kulas (fig. 67) are found only in the mountainous regions of Oltenia in the district of Mehedinți, Gorj and Râmnicu-Vâlcea. They were built by the boyars, the wealthy landowners. The oldest ones come from the period when the Rumanian rulers were paying tribute to the sultan. The ground plan is a square 7 by 12 meters in length. The width of the walls is 30-70 centimeters. The kula (fig. 67) may have three or four stories, each about 2.5 meters in height. Each story has one room. The ground floor is used for storage; sometimes a well is built into it, and occasionally there is a subterranean escape passage. The upper floors may also be used for storage, but are mainly living quarters. Windows are generally found only on one side; the other walls are provided with loopholes. On the top floor there is generally an open veranda (șerdak) about 3 meters wide, the roof over which is supported by pillars (fig. 67). The exposure is toward the valley and the south. On the side opposite the șerdak there is a simple wooden balcony under the eaves (fig. 67). Many kulas have a privy tower attached to them.